

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) An injector for injecting fuel under high pressure into a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector housing; an inlet connectable with a high pressure collecting chamber; a valve body for controlling said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber and movably received in said housing; a nozzle chamber provided in said housing; a nozzle needle which due to pressure changes in said nozzle chamber can open or close; a sealing spring which biases said nozzle needle, said nozzle needle being provided with pressure stages which are loadable by a hydraulic spring and a pressure acting in said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber to provide opening and closing forces on said needle nozzle; means forming a high pressure side; a ring chamber surrounding said nozzle needle; and a connection formed in said housing between said high pressure side and said ring chamber.

Claim 2 cancelled.

3. (Original) An injector as defined in claim 1, wherein said connection is formed as a circumferential ring-shaped groove provided in said housing.

4. (Previously presented) An injector as defined in claim 1, wherein said nozzle needle has a ring-shaped surface which is loaded with high pressure through said connection between said high pressure side and said ring chamber.

Claim 5 cancelled.

6. (Previously presented) An injector as defined in claim 11; and further comprising a refilling valve associated with said hydraulic spring chamber.

Claims 7-10 cancelled.

11. (Currently amended) An injector for injecting fuel under high pressure into a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector housing; an inlet connectable with a high pressure collecting chamber; a valve body for controlling said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber and movably received in said housing; a nozzle chamber provided in said housing; a nozzle needle which due to pressure changes in said nozzle chamber can open or close; a sealing spring which biases said nozzle needle, said nozzle needle being provided with pressure

stages which are loadable by a hydraulic spring having a hydraulic spring chamber and by a pressure acting in said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber, wherein said pressure spring has a hydraulic spring chamber, said nozzle needle having a transverse surface forming one of said pressure stages which is an upper pressure stage and arranged so that above said transverse surface of said nozzle needle control volumes which are contained in said hydraulic spring chamber act as a force directed opposite to an opening force of said nozzle needle to provide a closing force on said nozzle needle.

12. (Previously presented) An injector for injecting fuel under high pressure into a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector housing; an inlet connectable with a high pressure collecting chamber; a valve body for controlling said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber and movably received in said housing; a nozzle chamber provided in said housing; a nozzle needle which due to pressure changes in said nozzle chamber can open or close; a sealing spring which biases said nozzle needle, said nozzle needle being provided with pressure stages which are loadable by a hydraulic spring having a hydraulic spring chamber and by a pressure acting in said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber; and a control piston which is arranged in said housing

parallel to said nozzle needle, said control piston having an end surface which is loaded by a control volume of ~~a~~said hydraulic spring chamber of said hydraulic spring and through a connection with high pressure.

13. (Currently amended) An injector for injecting fuel under high pressure into a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector housing; an inlet connectable with a high pressure collecting chamber; a valve body for controlling said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber and movably received in said housing; a nozzle chamber provided in said housing; a nozzle needle which due to pressure changes in said nozzle chamber can open or close; a sealing spring which biases said nozzle needle, said nozzle needle being provided with pressure stages which are loadable by a hydraulic spring having a hydraulic spring chamber and by a pressure acting in said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber, wherein said valve body which is separate from said nozzle needle and formed as a slider which releases a nozzle inlet to a waste oil side.

14. (Currently amended) An injector for injecting fuel under high pressure into a combustion chamber of an internal combustion engine, comprising an injector housing; an inlet connectable with a high pressure

collecting chamber; a valve body for controlling said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber and movably received in said housing; a nozzle chamber provided in said housing; a nozzle needle which due to pressure changes in said nozzle chamber can open or close; a sealing spring which biases said nozzle needle, said nozzle needle being provided with pressure stages which are loadable by a having a hydraulic spring chamber and by a pressure acting in said inlet from the high pressure collecting chamber; and a nozzle guide in said housing, said spring having a hydraulic spring chamber ~~which is~~being filled by a leakage along said nozzle guide.